



*Always Ready  
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# *The Gem State Guardian*

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**Idaho National Guard**

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## **Idaho World War II Veteran receives Purple Heart and Bronze Star**

Story and photo by Col. Tim Marsano

ST. ANTHONY, Idaho, To posthumously honor U.S. Army World War II Veteran Staff Sgt. Don E. Mace, Brig. Gen. John Goodale, Idaho Assistant Adjutant General of the Idaho Army National Guard, traveled to St. Anthony July 7 to present the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medals to Mace's son and daughter.

Mace, who died in 1986, served in World War II in an anti-aircraft artillery battery in Corregidor, Philippines when it fell to the Japanese military on May 6, 1942. Mace was taken prisoner and survived 40 months in various POW camps in the Philippines and Japan; a horrible ordeal.

He was forced to work in a coalmine and suffered a broken back, two broken legs and broken ribs when the mine he was working in collapsed.



Brig. Gen. John Goodale, Idaho Assistant Adjutant General presents the daughter and son of Staff Sgt. Don Mace with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his actions in combat during World War II.

On Sep. 2, 1945, Fukuoka Camp 17 where Mace was held captive was liberated and Mace was soon returned to the United States.

After his honorable discharge in 1946, he held jobs as a potato sorter, sheet rock hanger and worked for 25 years with the National Park Service. He died in 1986.

At the awards ceremony, his family accepted the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious achievements

in battle, and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in hostile actions.

His grandson, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robbie Mace, currently serves in the Idaho Army National Guard as an Apache helicopter pilot, assigned to 1-183 Aviation Battalion.

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